

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. There are bands of assassins in Cochin China. One is located at Cholon, others around the province at Soctrang, Chaudoc, in the vicinity of Mytho, on the Saigon River (south of Thudumot) and near Bien Hoa. Their existence is known through their activities, captured documents (orders and reports), escaped hostages and rebels captured during operations.

2. The following is an extract from an order sent out by NGUYEN Binh, commander of the 7th Viet Nam military zone (which includes Saigon, Cholon as far as Bentre to the west and Budop to the north):

"To the soldiers and Volunteers of Death.

To the (men?) in the services of destruction...

We must fight fearlessly against the French in Cochinchina, chase out the traitors, destroy the bridges, roads and munition depots, sow terror in the towns by throwing grenades.

11/1/46

Commander of the Viem front de Resistance
Signed: NGUYEN Binh."

3. Following a meeting of the Viet Minh held on 10 April 1946, an assassin's band commanded by TRAN Phong was supposed to carry out an attempt against the life of the High Commissioner of the Republic in Indo China.

4. At the beginning of July, NGUYEN Binh gave the following order:
"All organizations concerned (assassins' bands) are to hold themselves in readiness every day during the conferences at Fontainebleau."

- ### 5. Organization of the Assassins' Bands:

Originally, the Youth of the Advanced Guard and the Security Police of the Viet Minh had as their missions the removal of the French and of the Viet Gian (traitors). In January 1946, the Volunteers of Death and the Assassins' Bands were organized. The latter formed an integral part of the regional resistance groups just as the Propaganda Groups and had the same missions as the Youth of the Advanced Guard and the Security Police. The members of the Assassins' Bands were recruited from among the Tonkinese and liberated prisoners from Poulo-Condore. However, activities after January 1946 were generally commanded by the chiefs of resistance

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PLANS	X	PEP	SPDA	SPB					

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zones acting under orders from Hanoi.

6. Activities of the Assassins' Bands:
 - a. First Period (August-December 1945): Killing of French and pro-French all over the territory including the kidnappings and killings of 2 and 25 September 1945 at Saigon.
 - b. Second Period (January-August 1946): Attempts on the lives of French soldiers (singly or in groups); Kidnapping of pro-French (women, children, etc) all over. Attacks on Cochinese notables who had to do with the Federal Council of Indo China and the Provisional Government of Cochinese China (Dr. TRAN van Phat; NGUYEN van Trac, CHAU Vinh Thanh. Attempts at poisoning garrisons around Dien Hoa. Kidnappings and killings of notables in the regions of Tay Ninh, My Tho, Cangloc, Sadec, Chaudoc and Baria.
7. Program and Organization of Group No. 4 at Saigon-Cholon:
 - a. Doctrine: The democratic republican regime. Only fight for a government which conforms to the democratic principle.
 - b. Goal: Destroy the invaders; fight the traitors. This activity will not last longer than the period of enemy invasion.
 - c. Organization: Into secret cells, each comprising not more than three people. Each cell will have its leader and the leaders of the cells will form groups which will elect the commander. Also, to facilitate operations, five persons will be elected to participate in the work of the groups in espionage, sabotage, killing, propaganda and liaison.
 - (1) Espionage: Try to penetrate enemy ranks and groups. Members of the band have to be intelligent and clever. They have to be taught certain things and be aware of their duties and aims. Their selection must be made very carefully since espionage work has considerable influence on victory or defeat.
 - (2) Sabotage: Try to penetrate businesses, stores, factories. Members of this band should be selected from among strong and clever workers. In short, they should be specialists in this field.
 - (3) Killing: Members of this band should be well trained in shooting, know how to use all kinds of weapons, be courageous, clever and enterprising.
 - (4) Propaganda: It is well understood that each member of the entire group is a propagandist. However, it is important to have one band devoted to propaganda specifically. This band needs a great number of women and children to distribute papers and pamphlets among all levels of the population and in the different enemy organizations.
 - (5) Liaison: Liaison needs the help of many women and children, chosen as much as possible among the most conscientious people.
 - d. Terms: Members have to be brave and capable of sacrificing their lives and possessions for the group. To join the group one has to be introduced by two older members who can testify in behalf of their qualifications. Members are forbidden to act over and beyond their sphere of duty fixed by a higher echelon. Each member has to right to criticize the leaders but only after carrying out a prescribed order. Those who do not prove satisfactory will be expelled or punished according to the seriousness of their offense. Each leader of a cell or group is responsible for everything happening in zones placed under their authority. Anytime he is aware of the activities of another group in his own zone he must find out its origin and attempt to have conferences with it. Each leader must also make a regular report on the situation of the population and the result of his work. Members must provide

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for their own subsistence but can receive help in special cases such as illness, etc. Families of members will receive help each time a member is arrested or if he dies in service.

a. Discipline:

- (1) Keep the secrets of the group.
- (2) Respect the discipline of the group.
- (3) Obey superiors.
- (4) Obey government orders.
- (5) Members, heads of groups or of bands who break rules or disrespect government orders will be tried before a military tribunal and be barred from the group or condemned to death, according to the seriousness of their offense. Members who have been excluded lose their civil rights once the country gains complete independence.

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